

Mine

HELLO AGAIN

October 1972

Vol 3 No 10

A PERSONAL MESSAGE: Radio lost 2 important and much-loved performers last month, Charles Correll and William Boyd. Details will appear later...Did you remember September 30th marked the 10th anniversary of the last performance of a network series: SUSPENSE and YOURS TRULY JOHNNY DOLLAR...A victim of many circumstances has been John Warden whom I have mentioned in past issues. John moved away from his McMahon Hall address at the Univ. of Wash. in Feb or March of 1972 to trace sources of discs, leaving a forwarding address. When he returned, he reentered the US Forest Service. Unfortunately no mail was forwarded and tapes which he mailed then never left the Univ of Wash post office. Also, many of his tapes were stolen at the Univ. John's new address is 4522 Brooklyn NE, Apt 309, Seattle, Wash 98105. All early orders which never left the Post Office are being redubbed. John is attempting to resolve all problems and asks that you write to him about any you might have... Mel Shlank has by now mailed all back orders of blank tape. If you still haven't received the tape or wish new tape of a price list write him at 553 Howellton Rd, Orange, Ct 06477.

TITLES AND DATES: (From Pat Murray): CINNAMON BEAR was first broadcast in 1937; BLUE BEETLE first aired in 1940; some SHERLOCK HOMMES DATES: Great Gandolpho 10/22/45...Speckled Band 11/12/45...Accidental Murderess (Adv. of Black Peter) 11/26/45...Scandal in Bohemia 12/10/45...Night Before Christmas (correct title of Blue Carbuncle) 12/24/45... Edited Enormous Radio in circulation is from CBS RADIO WORKSHOP, not SUSPENSE...Ron Sharon, 217 10th Ave So, So. St. Paul, Minn 55075 is looking for the correct title of a SUSPENSE a deadly snake (The Bushmaster) getting loose on a ship it is in. A cat kills the snake saving a man's life...Bob Erschen, 313 Bryant St, Dubuque, Ia 42001 would like to know the name of the theme of CANDY MATSON.

DEATHS: Carl Frank, 63, Sep 24. Carl was a member of Orson Welles's Mercury Theater company. He also announced THIS IS YOUR FBI and THE MAN OF TIME.

CHARLES CORRELL: Two white men in blackface, drawling thick Harlem accents into the radio microphone, created a landmark in the history of US broadcast entertainment...AMOS AND ANDY...In the 1930's the nation would slow almost to a halt when, at 8PM each night, Charles Correll and Freeman Gosden enacted their version of life in Harlem. Correll, who played Andy with a mineshaft-deep bass voice, died Tuesday, Sep 26 of a massive stroke. He was 82...He was in Chicago where the series originated to attend the dinner that radio station WGN, where it all began, gave for him every few years. "I feel a tremendous sense of personal loss," said Gosden from his home in Palm Springs, Cal. "We were partners for 32 years and friends for 50. It's a rare partnership that lasts that long in the business we worked in..." Amos N' Andy went on the air in 1928 and in the 1960s moved to television with an all-black cast replacing its white creators. But the civil rights movement was gathering strength then, and many blacks felt the show ridiculed them. After 100 episodes and a protest from the NAACP, the show was discontinued, although reruns were still being shown as late as 1965. Correll wasn't ashamed of the show, saying he and Gosden were laughing with Blacks, not at them. "I know the Negroes have had a tough time living their lives and I'm for any gain they can make constructively," he once said...Born in Peoria, Ill., Correll was originally a bricklayer and once said he got into show business because he had to quit work



\$3.50 IS DUE FOR ANOTHER YEAR IF THE BOX IS CHECKED

for 6 months of the year anyway because of the cold Illinois winters. He teamed up with Gosden, a former tobacco salesman from Richmond, Va in 1918 and they presented amateur shows. "We got to know Negroes and ~~and~~ their entertainment. Sometimes we even wore blackface ourselves in minstrel shows when the end men failed to show up," Correll once said. ...When they were offered a chance to do a serial on WGN in 1928, it seemed natural to them to do it in the same black dialect they had used on stage. The show rose in popularity, first was on NBC then CBS.

WILLIAM BOYD: There have been 16 different Tarzons, 6 Lone Rangers, 2 Supermen, 3 sets of Batmen and Robins and a litter of Lassies. But there could be only one Hopalong. William Boyd, who made Hopalong Cassidy a fixture of the early days of television died late Tuesday night, Sep 13. He was 74. Boyd was the first of the Western actors to foresee the riches that could be made in television and parlayed a series of cheap movies made years before into one of television's biggest hits worth millions of dollars. He so identified the black-clad, silver haired Hopalong with himself that no other actor could take over and after he retired he refused to give interviews for fear children would see he was not the saintly knight of the sagebrush he played... Boyd became a multimillionaire by getting 66 old Hopalong Cassidy films he made shown on television. In 1952-53 with Gabby Hayes he made 26 Hopalong episodes for television.

CONVENTIONS: Don't forget the East Coast convention in New Britain, Conn on Oct 28-29th at the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge. Quickly send in your check to Sal Trapani, Box 377, Seymour, Ct 06483. It is \$10.00 apiece for the dinner and \$2.00 a day for daily membership-no dinner. Sal's phone is 1-8882747 (area code 203). Guest now include Raymond Edward Johnson, William Spier, Charles Michelson, Richard Dana, Peter Donald, Bob Hastings, Joe Franklyn, Paul Lukas, Peg Lynch, Vincent Price. I'll see you all there.....Jo Ann Verigin is planning a get-together at her house to plan a west coast convention. Jo Anne with her husband, Gary, would like to hear from you if interested (They live in Escalon, about 1 1/2 hours from San Francisco on Highway 120). Write her at Box 66, Escalon, Cal 95320 for details and a map. John Olsen is doing the same thing in the Portland area...

PUBLICATIONS: Received the September issue of BBB (Broadcasting Bibliophile's Booknotes) by Christopher Sterling, Department of Radio-TV, Temple University, Philadelphia, Penn 19122. Printed monthly it is \$3.50 a year. It reviews virtually every publication connected with general media, communications, cable, nostalgia, radio-TV-movies, etc. I well recommend it...Also received Echoes of the Past, Golden Radio Journal, and assorted items from Don Pellow and Roy Bright. Included were: review of logs now printed, research information taken from the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, other articles on radio. Don Pellow has over 23,000 listings now (D P, 705 E Chandler Ave, Evansville, Ind 47713...

LOGS AND LISTINGS. I have just xeroxed copies of Network Log-Supplement #1 and Suspense Log-Supplements #2 and 3. If you were sent the logs without all of some of these supplements let me know and I will send you a copy. It does cost me 5¢ a page so I would appreciate a SASE. I also have a few copies of logs of CBS RADIO WORKSHOP. I am definitely out of LUX RADIO THEATER. ESCAPE can be gotten from Roy Bright, 2929 St. Philomena Ct, Peoria, Ill 61604...Dave Howe (new address), Box 21, Birch Harbor, Maine 04613 has made a listing of most of the LONE RANGER in circulation. He has tried to organize the descriptions so all can follow them. The opening line and description-title-date where

known are indicated. If you are a Lone Ranger buff send Dave a SASE for this listing. It could be used as a guide for all collectors... John Warden is working on following logs: INNER SANCTUM, LONE RANGER, GREEN HORNET, CHALLENGE OF YUKON, HALL OF FANTASY, MOLLE MYSTERY THEATER, DOCTOR CHRISTIAN. Other researchers contact John to coordinate efforts.

QUIZ: Winners of August quiz were Don Koehnemann (10) and Bob Deckelman (9). Each will receive a reel of shows. 6 people sent in answers. No one has answered Sept. quiz yet. Get those answers in. ANSWERS:

1. Walter Winchell and others 2. Count of Monte Christo 3. Grand Ole Opry 4. Road of Life 5. Mary Marlin, Betty and Bob 6. Arthur Godfrey 7. Canada Dry, Chevrolet, General Tire 8. Sherward 9. When I Say I Beg Your Pardon, Then I'll come back to you 10. Ed Thorgersen...OCTOBER QUIZ: What name band first appeared on radio and when 2. Gil Hooley was on what show 3. What made your face feel as good as ice 4. What were Mr and Mrs. Anderson's first names on Dennis Day (character names) 5. Who had bright eyes and rosy cheeks 6. A shipbuilder was one of the main characters in _____ 7. What popular soap opera took place in Virginia 8. What was Arthur Godfrey's theme song when he first went on for CBS in 1945 9. Name 3 orchestras who played on Abbott and Costello Show 10. What is Mr. District Attorney's real name on the show

PERSONALITIES: Roger Hill mentions that Paul Frees would welcome copies of shows he is in. He will reimburse for tape and dubbing time. Let him know what you have (53 Eastview Ave, Tiburon, Cal 94920).

TAPE DECK: Just a reminder: Don't break up a story between tracks. Time your shows so you have enough room on one track. Splice a little tape if necessary. It creates a problem in dubbing them.

LET THE BUYER BEWARE: Instead of listing names that have been on before (no new ones) I would suggest that my collectors list be used as a guide. With a new collector trade just a few hours to make sure both parties are satisfied. Don't spend many hours of dubbing time when you aren't sure anything will be received.

COLLECTORS LIST: Still many copies left (\$1.00) and supplement #1 (SASE). If you aren't on it yet send name, age, job, number of shows, particular shows interested in, whether you sell.

NEW ADDRESSES: John Warden (first page), Dave Howe (pg 2), Bill Duck, 5436 Sugarmaple Ln, Toledo, Ohio 43623, ...Tom Alexander, 3D White-marsh Ln, Lansdale, Penn 19446.

HERE AND THERE: Old Friends: Bruce Ruggles has many shows of poor quality which he very much would like to upgrade including Burns and Allen 11/27/45; Vic and Sade 9/26/46; Your Hit Parade 12/23/44 and many others. In return Bruce will trade, in many cases relatively rare material including all ELLERY QUEEN MINUTE MYSTERIES (520), a 24-hour epic-THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF ROCK AND ROLL, and SILVER EAGLE plus many others. Bruce trades 1/2-track. Write to him for details (Box 3000, North Bay, Ontario, Canada...Dave Lowell, 37 Country Club Dr, Woodbridge Ct 06525 would like Walter Damrosch's NBC MUSIC APPRECIATION HOUR, INFORMATION PLEASE, QUIZ KIDS...Den Nichols, 5486 Nichols Rd, Mason, Mich 48854 is very interested in recent LUX RADIO THEATER shows found...Mort Paradise, 6611 N Fairfield Ave, Chicago, Ill 60645 wants PASSING PARADE and AND SO THE STORY GOES with John Nesbitt...Howard Brenner (Mar-Bren), 420 Pelham Rd, Rochester, NY 14610 (permanent address) has a video tape machine and a library of about 35 one-hour reels. They are looking for people with video tape machines to trade with..Their machine is a Panasonic 1/2 ELAJ Type 1...David Riseman, 33 Fitch Ter, Randolph,

Mass 02368 has one of the largest collections of ALDRICH FAMILY and is looking for more...Fred Madden, RD 4, Westernville Rd, Rome, NY 13440 is still looking for new material with Judy Garland. He has about the largest private collection of Garland memorabilia and is always interested in new finds...Richard Pierce, RD 1, Baldwinsville, NY 13027 is in the process of moving and will be unable to trade for a couple of months...Franklyn Belcour, 121 Day St, Auburndale, Mass 02166 is looking for Vaughn Monroe and his Orch. with the Moonmaids, especially "Marshmellow Moon"...Herb Sadowsky, 105-25 65th Ave, Forest Hills, NY 11375 is looking for KRAFT MUSIC HALL with Al Jolson...Ellen Robinson will have to forego new trades for a while until she gets caught up on present commitments...Mark Dereng, 6701 Edgebrook Ter, Chicago, Ill 60646 is looking for the film soundtracks of My Little Chickadee, Night at the Opera, Great Ziegfeld, Going my Way. Also a TV special that was about David O. Selznick, aired by ABC in 1967 or 8...Terry Black tells me that Mark Dereng lost his entire collection in the recent flood. Perhaps some of us can help him start again...Bob Proctor is now actively trading (Public Affairs Office, US3 Ranger CVA-61, FPO San Francisco, 96601). His catalog is ready with many programs close to first generation, many of which are not in general circulation. Catalog is very well written...Tim Johnson, because of extensive dubbing of transcription will have to limit trading for a while...

New Friends: (All new subscribers are listed here unless they request not to be)...Richard Hutto, Director of Broadcasting WSLU*FM, 54 Park Ave, Canton, NY 13617...Alan Betz, Box 33806 Station D, Vancouver 9, BC Canada. Alan is interested in Science Fiction and has about 1400 shows. ...Capt. Bill Knowlton, USAF, 5607 Bear Rd (J-1), N Syracuse, NY 13212 ...Bill is interested in NATIONAL BARN DANCE, GRAND OLE OPRY, RENFRO VALLEY SHOWS, He is also looking for LEAVE IT TO MIKE and PEE WEE AND WINDY for Walter Kinsella. Bill mainly collects 78's with 4000 of them. Would like to get McGee, Vic and Sade, F Allen, J Benny...George Earl, 53 Elm St, Hudson Falls, NY 12839...Dave Dixon, 5976 Highbury St, Vancouver 13, BC Canada is especially interested in Fred Allen and Jack Benny. Dave is looking for the source of a 2 LP Fred Allen set on the BAGDAD label. There are many excerpts of shows not in circulation. Dave has long runs of YOUNG WIDDER BROWN, GUIDING LIGHT, MA PERKINS, BACK* STAGE WIFE and BING CROSBY from 1944-54...Chris Elliot, 15939 Viewfield Rd, Monte Sereno, Cal 95030. Chris has 600 shows and is interested in ESCAPE AND SUSPENSE...

NEW PROGRAMS: In or soon to be in my collection: AUTHOR'S PLAYHOUSE: many ESCAPE from Skip Craig and R Bright: FORD THEATER: Horn Blows at Midnight w J Benny: MISTER KEENE, 11/25/55: SILVER EAGLE....Bil Smerek-anicz, 47 Benham Rd, Seymour, Ct 06483 has 14 hours of new HERE'S TO VETERANS shows being geared to Viet-Nam veterans...Don Koehnemann, 811 Bristol A, Westchester, Ill 60153 has 20 minutes more of CLARA, LU and EM material. He is making this available on loan to those who would like to have a sampling of their work or to those who already received the previous tapes of the Show. Write Don for details. Also send 10¢ and a large SASE to Don if you want a photocopy of a publicity photo of Clara, Lu and Em in stage dress...

RADIO IS ALIVE AND WELL: WDBQ, 1490 AM, Dubuque, Iowa: 5 evenings a week at 6:30; variety of shows...WLWL-FM, 99.5, St. Paul, Minn, Sundays, 11-12 PM...Allen Rockford is host of two programs on WSEN-FM, 92.1 and WCNY-FM, 91.3 in Syracuse area. The shows are from his collection. WSEN is daily at 7 PM and WCNY is on Saturdays. There was a nice article about is in the Syracuse Times...WKOP-AM, 1360, Binghamton, NY.

SMALL ARTICLES: (from Charles Stumof). Staats Gotsworth was married on Sep 23rd to actress Josephine Hutchinson. They first met in 1932. Previously Mr. Gotsworth had been married to actress Muriel Kirkland who died last year. Miss Kirkland had played the role of Mary Marlin... Penny Singleton became a grandmother on Sep 18th when her daughter gave birth to a son. Miss Singleton is the executive president of the American Guild of Variety Artists...(from Pat Murray): from BROADCASTING 12/1/38...American Tobacco Co. and W C Fields have cancelled contract arrangements after four weeks. Field's last appearance on the CBS YOUR HIT PARADE was Nov 12th. Field is reported to have received \$5,000 weekly for his appearance on the show which consumed about 12 minutes. (They didn't like his subtle reference to his son "Chester" (At least one show is in circulation, 10/22/38-ed).

FEATURE ARTICLE: MORE ON THE SHADOW BY John Warden

Radio's greatest Man of Mystery can trace his origin back to the February 1929 issue of "Fame and Fortune," a Street & Smith pulp magazine based on high finance and the stock market. Author George C. Jenks had been commissioned to write a novel for the issue and came up with "The Shadow of Wall Street" in which Compton Moore became the Shadow, a green-hooded figure with "Awful, glittering eyes" and "A strange, mocking laugh," to wage a battle against the crooked financiers and swindlers of the market. Although the character proved immensely popular, the stock market crash provided its ultimate demise. Then, in 1930, Street & Smith sponsored a CBS Thursday night radio show called STREET & SMITH'S DETECTIVE STORY MAGAZINE HOUR. The 30 minute program was narrated by a haunting voice that introduced each drama and revealed news at the end about the forthcoming issue of the sponsor's magazine. The voice, known only as The Shadow, caught on and, in order to protect their property, S & S decided to copyright the character in its own magazine..and so in March of 1931, the first issue of "The Shadow Magazine" was released with a novel by Maxwell Grant (Actually Walter Gibson) titled "The Living Shadow." It was then revealed that The Shadow in the story was the same Shadow that broadcast the radio program. On Jan 5, 1932, the show officially became "The Shadow" and was heard Tuesdays at 10:00 EST on CBS for 5 weeks: 1/5/32 "Dynamite Moll"; 1/12/32 "Wee Willie's Ghost;" 1/19/32 "Turn of the Tide;" 1/26/32 "Friday the 13th;" and 2/2/32 (Title unknown.). On Oct 5, 1932, "The Shadow" switched to the NBC Red network and was broadcast until April 26, 1933 on Wednesdays at 8:00, later at 8:30. The mood of the program is best expressed by the following ad from "The New York Times" 9/25/32: "The Shadow Reappears---The mystery voice of the air, bringing more tales of the strange, the weird and macabre, again makes its appearance with the stage set for Oct 5 at 8 PM. These original mystery stories dealing with baffling occurrences in all parts of the world, center around the sinister presence of the Shadow whose identity remains unknown." ...Not yet having reached the desired audience, the program remained off the air until Oct 1, 1934, when it returned to CBS to be broadcast Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30. With its return the program changed its format so that The Shadow was no longer the mysterious villain and yet he had still not attained the formula that would prove so successful in 1937; He was still no more than a narrator, much in the vein of a later radio development, THE WHISTLER. One interesting feature of this season, however, was the use of The Shadow's secret code. Radios of "The Shadow Magazine" are familiar with his method of transmitting orders to his operatives. He would take a phone call of radio broadcast and emphasize certain important words. The stressed words, when removed from the context of the rest of the message would compose the instructions). From "The Shadow Magazine" (11/1/34, The Chinese Disks), the following excerpt shows how this was adapted to the radio show: "THE SHADOW SPEAKS. Over the air, twice a

week, the Shadow cries out his challenge to crime...Listen to his voice; hear his wierd laugh...and from the closing announcement of each program learn his message which he sends to all Shadow readers and Shadow Club followers. Catch the emphacised words, as the agents of the Shadow do when on the trail of crime. Then check yourself by the decoded messages which will be printed on this page every issue...The Shadow said: On Mon. Oct 1, "Crime does not pay"...On Wed., Oct 3: "The Law is just"...This format continued until the series ended on March 27, 1935.

When the format was altered in 1937, making the Shadow a hero with a secret identity and "the power to cloud men's minds," many characters were culled from the highly successful pulp novels and added to the program in an attempt to provide a basis to familiarize the series to the many readers of "The Shadow Magazine." Commissioner Weston, Inspector Joe Cardona, Moe "Shrevie" Shrevnitz, reported Clyde Burke and secret service operative Vic Marquette all found their way into the broadcasts, although most of them had to suffer many changes in the process. As far as I know, only Margo Lane had the distinction of being created solely for the radio show and then later making her way into the magazine. From 1937 to late 1939, The Shadow's powers were enlarged in their scope to include mental telepathy, super-ventriloquism and an ability to enter into a state of suspended animation. These extra abilities were frequently used and provided for many interesting stories. As in the pulps The Shadow also made frequent use of a short wave transmitter to get instruction to Margo. In fact, he often lugged the device (invisibly, of course) with him on his missions against the forces of evil...After the fame of his "War of the Worlds" broadcast became too much for Orson Welles to remain in the role of The Shadow, a search was immediately started for a replacement. Since there was very little time involved, the role was placed in the capable hands of actor Bill Johnstone who had played many supporting parts in the series since 1937. Johnstone first portrayed The Shadow at the end of 1938 and went on until April 16, 1944. Agnes Moorehead continued in the role of Margo Lane for the remainder of the 38-39 season and was then replaced by Marjorie Anderson, another experienced member from the supporting cast. From Sept. 24, 1944 to April 15, 1945, The Shadow was played by John Archer with Marjorie Anderson continuing her role as Margo. Steve Courtleigh and Laura Mae Carpenter played the heroic couple for about 2 months in 1945 (9/9/45-10/21/45) to be replaced on Oct. 28, 1945 by Bret Morrison and Lesley Woods. Although Morrison remained in the role until the last broadcast of the series, Lesley Woods was later replaced by Gertrude Warner and Grace Matthews. (This and the article contributed by Pat Murray in the September issue give as a complete history and background of The Shadow that I have seen anywhere-ed)

MORE ON THE CONVENTION: More tentative guests include Leon Janney and Alexander Scourby. Tentative program follows: SATURDAY, 28th: 9-11 Registration, coffee-and...exhibits, radio listening stations and movies available both days from about 10 to 5...12-1 Lunhh (\$2.25) 1:15-2:15 talk on copyrights by Charles Michelson followed by discussion period...2:30-3:30 talk on taping and tape recorders...3:30-5 Panel discussion-Radio as it was...5-6 Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres (\$2.00)...6:30-? dinner (Master of Ceremonies, Dick Bertel of WTIC), several speeches...SUNDAY: registration, coffee-and 9:00 to 10:00...10:00-12:00 discussion on tape...12-1 buffet (\$2.25)...1:15-2:15 slide show...2:30-3:30 setting up catalogs (Carl Erickson)...3:45-5 sound effects demonstration....AGAIN-See you all there.

LATE MAIL AND TIDBITS: More Inner SANCTUM dates from Richard Dodge, 24 W Jamestown, Stockton, Cal 95207: Murder Takes a Honeymoon 7/26/48; Till Death do Us Part 10/27/45...Desert Death 1/9/45. Dick has a small

collection and is looking for INNER SANCTUMS. He also is working on an INNER SANCTUM log.....Dead at 85 is William P. Adams. Adams, who died Sep 29th was a professional actor and appeared in several radio programs including JUST PLAIN BILL and YOUR FAMILY AND MINE. He was a former president of the NY local of the American Federation of TV and Radio Artists...Just received complete revision of "Static, Flutter and Pop" called "Science Fiction on Radio." It is written by Meade Frierson, 3705 Woodvale Rd, Birmingham, Ala 35223 and is \$1.50. Among other things it contains a complete log of DIMENSION X and X-1. It is a well-written 52-page in-depth survey of the adult science-fiction radio shows of the past. When ordering the booklet please mention my newsletter....Don Woodruff, 15 Castlewood Dr, San Rafael, Cal 94901. Don is a beginner and is interested in all shows, especially if they are complete network shows, not AFTS.

ANOTHER BENNY TRIBUTE (contributed by Charles Stumpf)...On Monday, September 25, 1972 Jack Benny added another honor to his long list when he received the Humanitarian Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews (entertainment industries division). The award was made by Steve Broidy at the Hotel Century Plaza...Johnny Carson emceed and noted, "When I grew up in Norfolk, Neb., I didn't think Jack Benny was Jewish. I didn't know anyone was Jewish. I thought the whole world was Methodist." Comedian George Burns, a long time friend of Benny's, noted: "Something of George Jessel rubs off on all emcees. Even on Johnny Carson: he asked me to buy a bond for Nebraska." Benny admitted, "I used to be Johnny Carson's idol. Things switched and he became my idol. It was more fun the other way. I don't like him as much as he used to like me." Benny also noted that Jessel should have been honored by the Conference of Christian and Jews: "He's already married five Christians." Added tribute to Benny was given by Mrs. George S. Behrendt, pres. of the Founders of the L. A. Music Center, thanking him for fundraising for the musicians. Benny was touched by the award and introduced his wife Mary in the audience. She makes rare public appearances these days. Also on hand was daughter, Joan...

That's about it. On page 8 is another Tape Tips by Mel Shlank. See you all at the convention on the 28th. It's now Oct. 13th. Keep the information coming in, especially new finds, deaths, etc. Spread the word.

HANG BY YOUR THUMBS AND WRITE IF YOU GET WORK.

Jay Hickerson, 6 Koczak Ct, North Haven, Conn 06473 (239-5251) \$3.50

Last month in this column I discussed taping directly off the air on both AM and FM. The most important thing concerning taping off the air on FM is the subject of this month's column, that is your FM antenna system.

Unfortunately, most antenna installers and salesmen of Hi-Fi equipment are under the misimpression that for local reception all one needs is either an indoor TV rabbit-ears or a simple 300 ohm Dipole made out of wire. For fringe reception (which many sadly misinformed "experts" claim to be not more than 60 to 75 miles) what is recommended is the sharing of your TV antenna.

Just to set the record straight, unless it is not possible to erect an outdoor antenna, an inside antenna should never be used for reception unless someone is only concerned about a few local mono signals. For clear stereo reception, an outside antenna is a MUST. In fact only a FM Yagi should be used. If you have stations in two (2) markedly different directions, two (2) Yagis should be used with a switch at your set. If there are desired stations in more than two (2) directions, then a good quality Yagi should be used along with a rotor. The more elements that the Yagi has, the better (they come in 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, and 12 element configurations).

Stick to a name brand, don't use a mongrel such as Archer. I know from the sad experience of a neighbor how inferior the Archer brand of Yagi is. Your Yagi should be as high as possible, and if you are in an area which has much electronic interference, a 75 ohm down lead is recommended. In fact, if the new RG-6/U cable is used, there will be less loss in 100 feet of this lead-in cable than in 100 feet of 300 ohm cable; these cables have true 100 percent shielding against line pick-up. This new cable that I refer to uses a foam inner insulation, and the shield is a solid sheath of aluminum.

Should for one reason or another you need much more than 100 feet of lead-in cable, an antenna mounted pre-amplifier is recommended. There are only a few such units made. All of the tests that I have performed have indicated that all but one brand will overload if you have one or more FM stations whose transmitters are within 10 to 15 miles of you. If you have any specific questions or would like to know where to get the antennae that I recommend, feel free to write to me.

The FM antenna that I recommend the most is the Model FM-4, FM-5, and FM-12 as manufactured by the Finney Company of Bedford, Ohio. The Channel Master Stereo Probe is also a good antenna.

There are two (2) excellent FM pre-amplifiers that are available. One is the Blonder-Tongue Model CMA, and the other is manufactured by a company known as JFD and it is their Model SP 2888. The JFD will not overload, from high input (local) signals, whereas the Blonder-Tongue might. If you have trouble in obtaining any of these items, drop me a line as I can get many of them for you for wholesale.

Before ending this column, I must comment on distant FM reception. With the good quality antennae and low loss lead-in cables that are available today, combined with a good quality tuner, good stereo reception can probably be gotten at a distance of up to either 50 to 100 miles and mono reception from between 60 to 120 miles in an average location depending on whether the stations are low powered (3000 watts or less) or high powered (over 3000 watts). In fact with many of today's FM stations operating with 50,000 watts, good dependable stereo reception is not unusual for distances up to 125 or even 150 miles.

I sincerely hope that this month's column has been of help to many of you. As you know, many of the old shows are being run today on FM stations and some of the taping I have heard is terrible, usually due to poor antenna systems. If you have any questions, Please Write.

